

## Pipe Bursting

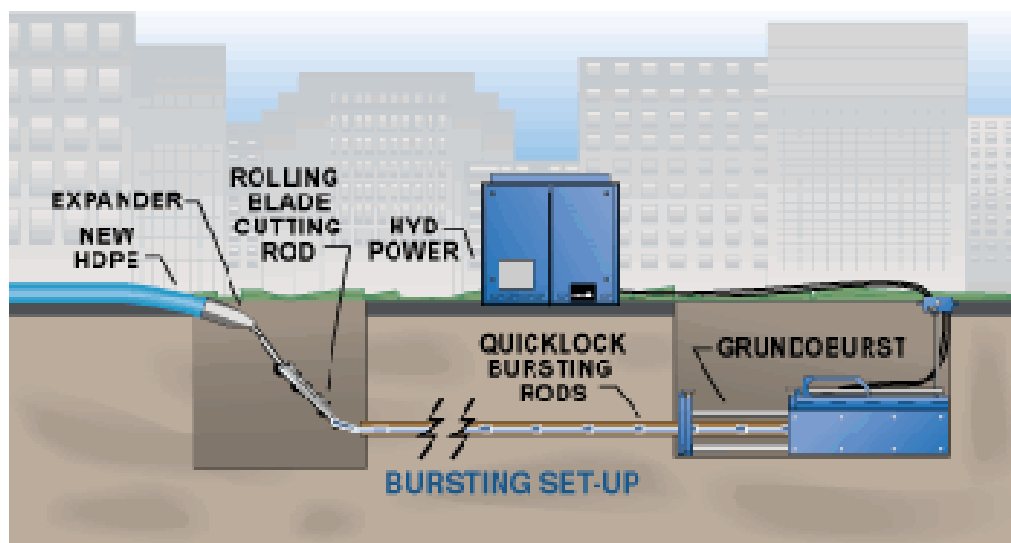
To protect public safety and limit damage to surface streets, King County is using a technique called “pipe bursting” to install new sewer pipe underneath Southeast 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast and Luther Burbank Park.

### How Pipe Bursting Works

To access the underground pipe corridor, crews dig pits up to 20 feet deep and 300-400 feet apart from each other along the length of the pipe to be replaced.

A hydraulic pulling machine is installed into one pit with rods attached to it which extends through the existing defective pipe corridor to the next pit. A metal cone called an “expander” is lowered into the second pit and attached to the rod. The expander is tipped with a bladed rod that works like a drill bit.

The new pipe is attached to the back of the expander. The pulling machine drags the expander through the pipe corridor causing the expander’s bladed rod to split –or “burst”-- the old pipe. The expander pushes the old pipe into the surrounding soil, and the new pipe fills in behind.



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# **NORTH MERCER INTERCEPTOR EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR**

**February 2007**

## **Advantages of Pipe Bursting for the North Mercer Island Project**

- Installs new pipe without disturbing surface structures
- Avoids other buried utility lines by following the existing pipe path
- Minimizes excavation, reducing the impact on landscaping and structures
- Limits the amount of site restoration necessary
- Allows more efficient traffic control through residential neighborhoods

## **What to Expect**

- Excavation pits 12-22 feet deep and 300-400 feet apart along SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and in the southern end of Luther Burbank Park
- Heavy machinery – Excavators, backhoes, trucks, generator, and hydraulic pulling machine
- Pipe stored on one lane of 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE north of SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street
- Noise and dust typical of a construction site

**King County urges all community members to stay out of the work area and exercise extreme caution when approaching it.**

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